

PRC, although concerns about self-censorship and the proposal for a "privacy council" watchdog over the press bear continued scrutiny. Demonstrations continue to be held. There is vigorous public debate on the issues of democracy and the law. The legislature and free press have used their roles to increase government accountability and transparency.

However, the controversy over the "right of abode" case has cast a pall over the issue of Hong Kong's future judicial autonomy and the rule of law. This is a fundamental issue that business and the international community will be watching closely. If the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress continues to intervene in decisions primarily affecting Hong Kong, confidence in Hong Kong's future could be seriously undermined. Willingness by the Hong Kong Government to speed up the pace of democratization of elections for Chief Executive, Legco, and local government could help ease some of the fears that the "right of abode" case has raised.

**OSCAR ZEPEDA WINS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION AWARD**

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly pay tribute to a fellow Arizonan—a little boy who lives in the Second Congressional District and who has proclaimed to the world his pride in being an American, an Arizonan, a Latino, and bilingual.

Oscar Zepeda, from Tucson, has recently won the 2000 Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students in the sixth to eighth grade category sponsored by the National Association for Bilingual Education. This is a tremendous accomplishment as he competed against thousands of young boys and girls who live in all parts of the United States, who are bilingual in various languages, and who have recognized the importance of being bilingual in the 21st Century.

Oscar will receive his award at the National Association for Bilingual Education's 29th Annual Conference to be held in San Antonio later this month. This is indeed a prestigious award in an acclaimed contest as the winner receives a \$5,000 scholarship, roundtrip airfare and accommodation for himself, a member of his family, and his bilingual teacher, and free registration to the Conference.

As all of us serving in Congress know, we sometimes have great and illustrious debates on the values and merits of bilingual education in our school systems. We all know that English is the language of economic opportunity within the United States, but sometimes we ignore the value of knowing and speaking another language. But, I wish all my colleagues would read Oscar's essay. Oscar is proud to be bilingual and he uses the simple arguments best expressed by a child to explain why we should cherish our differences and look to diversity as one of the strengths of our country.

Oscar enjoys living in a bilingual world, and in fact, he would have it no other way. He can

learn from and cherish his Latino side by celebrating the courage of Cesar Chavez and watching Telemundo and Univision while also appreciating and developing his "American side," as he puts it, by celebrating the accomplishments of Bill Clinton and watching MTV.

Oscar closes his essay by asking the simple, but poignant question, "So why won't we just work together and make this an easier world for all of us?" Mr. Speaker, I agree. Oscar and classmates have ignored the politics of bilingualism and just keep living their lives with the grace and courage and enthusiasm that is unique to children who are sometimes caught unknowingly in adult arguments. We should all feel proud for Oscar that he made a complex issue very simple.

I hope all my colleagues will read Oscar's essay which I am submitting for the RECORD. Oscar, we are all proud of you and your accomplishments. But mainly, we are humbled by your words. And maybe, we can live up to your dream—that we "just work together" to make the world an easier place for us all.

**PROUD TO BE BILINGUAL**

Proud to be bilingual is not a question, it's an answer that you and I would give when asked why we're proud to be bilingual. Being bilingual is a gift that GOD gave me, to use and show other people what I can do with it. Sometimes I sit and think if I weren't bilingual I wouldn't have a lot of the things I have now. Some of them may be friends, a better education and opportunities for better jobs in the future.

I was talking to a staff member of a school the other day that was speaking English very well. She started saying, "I hate it when students come in here and don't know how to speak English." "I'm against bilingual education." "They should learn Spanish at home and English in school." Meanwhile I was just looking around and ignoring her. Then I laughed as she spoke in Spanish. It was the worst Spanish I had ever heard, and she was saying that her mother had taught her; what an insult to her mother. I can't understand why a Mexican would deny her own native language; it was just incredible to me.

Let's come down to the facts of what being proud means. Being proud means having something different and positive from one another, therefore, this thing that's good should make everybody proud of themselves. It doesn't matter if you speak Chinese and Japanese, French and German, or Spanish and English, you're still bilingual and unique. Being different means good. If we would all be the same, it would be a dull world.

I'm a Chicano (Mexican-American) and being proud of it means being involved in everything that goes with it, from supporting Cesar Chavez' N.F.W.A. (National Farm Workers Association) to watching "Telemundo and Univision" to speaking and practicing Spanish. I also have to be in touch with my American side in order to be "cool", anything from Bill Clinton to "MTV and NBC" to of course speaking English. So why won't we just work together and make this an easier world for all of us.

**RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. This organization was founded with the purpose of helping to give young men a sense of self worth and satisfaction from knowing they can accomplish the goals they set and a sense that they are part of a winning team. Today, this organization continues to provide young men with values and experiences that cultivate discipline and a sense of responsibility; traits that they carry with them throughout their lives.

The Boy Scouts of America teaches values of community and service to our Nation. In the wake of such tragedies as Columbine and an increase in the number of reports of alienation of youngsters at school, we need only to turn to the Scout Oath as a fine example for what is right with our youth. Do my best, to do my duty, to God and my country, to obey the Scout Law, and to help other people at all times. These are solid values that youth should use to build a foundation for their lives. The Boy Scouts instill values that make our community much stronger: public service, volunteerism and good citizenship. Scouting develops both self reliance and teamwork.

From its beginning in 1911, the Boy Scouts have grown in size to more than 5 million active members in 1999. In the 90 years since their incorporation, the Boy Scouts have influenced more than 100 million boys, young men and women.

While much has changed in the past 90 years, the Boy Scouts remain committed to their founding principles. The Boy Scouts have strengthened efforts to provide value-based curriculum and character building youth programs. By providing youth with the tools to make good decisions and providing the clues to their own inner strength the Boy Scouts have imbued in their members a commitment to improving the world around them.

Recently, I was honored by the Central New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America as their Good Scout Honoree of 1999. I am honored and inspired by their commitment to pursuing the best for the youth of our Country. As a former Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster, I share the values set forth in the Scout Law and Scout Oath. I see them demonstrated regularly when I attend Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in my district.

I thank the Scouters, volunteers and parents who contribute their time and energy to making the Boy Scouts of America a place that young men, and now young women, can turn for guidance, leadership and worthy life experiences.

The impact of Scouting on youth is truly a life changing experience. On this 90th Anniversary of Scouting, I wish the Boy Scouts of America continued success in the future as they strive to help build character and strengthen the communities around the country for the next generations of Americans.